New guidelines for hydro power projects

46. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether to give a major fillip to hydro power generation, Government are finalizing new set of guidelines for development of projects over 100 MW by private sector through competitive tariff based bidding;

(b) if so, whether according to the new policy, States with huge hydro potential would be asked to short list cerdible developers based on certain preset technical qualifying criteria;

(c) whether his Ministry propose to offer a series of run-of-the river projects for development by private sector; and

(d) if so, to what extent this will help in further improving development of power projects in the country?

THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Ministry of Power had issued guidelines in July, 2002 that projects above 100 MW be awarded through the process of competitive bidding. Ministry of Power has recently in July, 2006 reiterated that the projects above 100 MW be awarded through process of tariff based competitive bidding. It has been further clarified that competitive bidding has to be on the basis of tariff in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Electricity Policy and the Electricity Tariff Policy.

(b) No new set of guidelines have been announced. However, post Electricity Act, 2003, the guidlines for determination of tariff by bidding process for procurement of power by distribution licensees have been issued on 19.012005, the National Electricity Policy on 12.02.2005 and the Tariff Policy on 6.01.2006. The criteria for development of hydro projects by the States is expected to be duly aligned to the provisions contained in the above policies.

(c) and (d) It is expected that the Hydro Electric Projects, including run-of-the river projects, would be offered to the private developers by the respective State Governments for expeditious development of hydel power potential in the country.

Demand for power

47. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand for power supply as estimated by NTPC in the country; and